

Message Text

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14

ORIGIN NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-04 RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01 SPC-03 H-03

PCH-02 SS-20 NSC-10 /131 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/P:JEBRIGGS
APPROVED BY NEA/P:JEBRIGGS
S/PRS - MR. KING (INFO)
AF/P - MRS. RUSSELL
IO/P - MR. BLACHLY
EUR/P - MR. SAVAGE
NEA/EGY - MR. STERNER
H - MISS FOLGER (INFO)

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R 192111Z NOV 73
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
USINT CAIRO
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMCONSUL DHAHRAN
USINT ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY MANAMA
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
AMEMBASSY TUNIS
AMEMBASSY RABAT
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY ROME
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
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USINT BAGHDAD

AMEMBASSY SANAA BY POUCH

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING

FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE FOLLOWING IS PARTIAL
EXCERPT FROM DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN'S PRESS BRIEFING
NOVEMBER 19, 1973:

QUOTE: Q. HOW ABOUT MR. EBAN?

A. I AM TOLD THAT MR. EBAN WILL BE COMING HERE NEXT
WEDNESDAY, THE DAY AFTER TOMORROW. HE IS SEEING THE
SECRETARY IN WASHINGTON.

Q. DOES THE UNITED STATES REGARD THE ISRAELI BRIDGE BUILD-
ING ACROSS THE SUEZ CANAL AS A VIOLATION OF THE CEASE-FIRE?
AND HAS IT MADE ANY REPRESENTATION TO ISRAEL ABOUT IT?

A. I SUPPOSE REALLY, ALL WE CAN SAY AT THIS STAGE ABOUT
THAT -- WE HAVE SEEN A NUMBER OF THE REPORTS WHICH YOU ARE
REFERRING TO -- TECHNICALLY IT'S NOT A PART OF THE UNDER-
STANDINGS WHICH HAVE BEEN REACHED ONE WAY OR THE OTHER.

AND DEPENDENT ON HOW IT EMERGES, I SUPPOSE THE BEST THING
WE COULD SAY IS THAT WE WOULD EXPECT THERE ARE PROBABLY A
CONSIDERABLE RANGE OF QUESTIONS WHICH WILL BE DISCUSSED
LATER ON WHEN YOU GET TO THE POINT OF NEGOTIATIONS.

NOW, DEPENDENT ON WHAT ACTUALLY IS BEING CREATED THAT
MIGHT, OR MIGHT NOT AT THAT TIME BE ONE OF THOSE QUESTIONS.

Q. YOU MENTIONED THE "UNDERSTANDINGS" AND MY UNDER-
STANDING WAS THAT AN UNDERSTANDING AT THE TIME WAS THAT
THERE WOULD BE NO BLOCKADE, WHETHER THERE HAD BEEN ONE
BEFORE OR NOT, OF THE STRAITS AT BAB EL MANDEB.

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AS I UNDERSTAND IT, NO SHIPS ARE GOING THROUGH -- GETTING
THROUGH TO ISRAEL -- OR SHIPS THAT ARE HEADED FOR ISRAEL
GETTING THROUGH.

IS THERE ANYTHING BEING DONE ABOUT THIS?

DOES THIS APPEAR TO BE SOMETHING AKIN TO A BLOCKADE?

A. I DON'T THINK IT WOULD HELP FOR ME TO GET INTO WHAT MAY OR MAY NOT BE BEING DONE AT THE STRAITS OF BAB EL MANDEB. I'LL STICK WITH WHAT I SAID LAST WEEK.

WE HAVE TO SEE WHAT EMERGES THERE IN THE CONTEXT OF THE -- ALL OF THE ACTIVITIES WHICH GRADUALLY ARE REINFORCING THE CEASE-FIRE.

Q. SOMETIME AGO WE WERE TALKING WITH SAUDI ARABIA ABOUT A BIG ARMS DEAL. IS THAT STILL GOING ON? ARE TECHNICAL DISCUSSIONS TAKING PLACE? THAT'S THE LAST WE HEARD -- "TECHNICAL DISCUSSIONS."

A. YOU ARE QUITE RIGHT. THERE WAS. AND SINCE THAT TIME WE'VE BEEN, AS EVERYONE KNOWS, IN AN EXTRAORDINARY PERIOD.

AND THIS MATTER, AS FAR AS I KNOW, HAS NOT BEEN PURSUED IN THIS INTERVENING PERIOD. IT IS OBVIOUSLY SOMETHING THAT, AS TIME GOES ON IN THE DAYS AHEAD, PEOPLE WILL BE LOOKING INTO --

BUT IN THAT CONNECTION, I AM NOT AWARE OF ANY BASIC CHANGES IN POLICY -- WHICH IS UNDERLYING YOUR QUESTION, AND WHICH LIES BEHIND EARLIER QUESTIONS THAT YOU HAVE HAD WITH THIS.

Q. ARE YOU SAYING THAT THE UNITED STATES IS PREPARED TO GO AHEAD WITH SIMILAR TECHNICAL TALKS AT ANY POINT IN THE NEAR FUTURE?

A. YES. WE WOULD STILL BE PREPARED TO HAVE TECHNICAL TALKS.

Q. EVEN WHILE THE OIL EMBARGO GOES ON?
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A. YES, TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE. I THINK YOU ARE GETTING AWFULLY PRECISE AND OVERLOOKING WHAT I SAID.

I SAID I WAS NOT AWARE OF ANY BASIC CHANGE IN THE POLICY NOW. BUT OBVIOUSLY, WE WILL HAVE TO BE LOOKING INTO ALL ASPECTS OF THIS QUESTION IN THE DAYS AHEAD.

NOW THIS IS ONLY A RATIONAL WAY OF VIEWING A SITUATION THAT I DON'T WISH TO EXAGGERATE IN ANY WAY.

WE HAVE NOT CHANGED OUR POLICY, AND OBVIOUSLY AS THE TIME GOES ON, WE'LL REVIEW IT.

Q. DID UNITED STATES EVER CONSIDER A SO-CALLED COUNTER-

EMBARGO ON THE ARAB NATIONS?

A. IF YOU MEAN SERIOUSLY CONSIDERED THIS IN TERMS OF
GOVERNMENT POLICY -- NO.

Q. OR STUDYING THE POSSIBILITY?

A. THIS IS A VERY LARGE GOVERNMENT. I DON'T KNOW WHAT
OTHER PORTIONS OF THIS GOVERNMENT MAY HAVE DONE BUT IN
TERMS OF ANYTHING I'M AWARE OF, IT HAS NOT BEEN THE
SUBJECT OF A SERIOUS STUDY THAT CAME TO MY ATTENTION. END
QUOTE. KISSINGER

NOTE BY OC/T: POUCHED SANAA.

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